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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-16 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 17-28 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement and are hereby cancelled. Furthermore, claims 1- 7 and 9-16 have been cancelled herein while claims 29-52 have been newly added. A complete listing of the claims showing the changes made in revised amendment format can be found at pages 2-5 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone conversation of June 17, 2004 where the cancellation of the rejected claims and introduction of the subject new claims (including the allowable subject matter) was discussed and agreed to be entered and considered so as to place the application in condition for allowance.

It should be noted that applicants' representative intends to file a continuation application pursuing the original filed and/or cancelled claims of the subject application.

In accordance with our discussion and the comments herein, entry of the subject amendments and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-7 and 9-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested at least because claims 1-7 and 9-15 have been cancelled herein.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-14 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kumihashi, *et al.* (U.S. 6,136,721) in view of Chao, *et al.* (U.S. 5,780,315). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for the following reason.

Although, applicants' representative believes the subject invention as recited by claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-14, and 16 is patentable over the cited art, such claims have been cancelled herein to expedite prosecution and allowance of newly presented claims 29-52. Hence, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants' representative reserves the right to present claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-14, and 16 in a continuation application.

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CONCLUSION

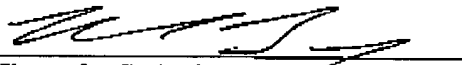
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP



Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731